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Mr. Haakon Forwald

Mr. Haakon Forwald of Ludvika, Sweden, is one of the most active and persevering investigators in the field of parapsychology. His recent visit for two months of work at the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory has led to further important developments in the experiments which he has been carrying on for the last eight years. The gradually unfolding story of this research is familiar to those who have read the reports in the *Journal of Parapsychology*, beginning with his first attempt simply to find evidence of psychokinesis and leading to his most recent efforts to measure the energetics involved in the PK process.

MR. HAAKON FORWALD

Mr. Forwald, an engineer, represents that important body of parapsychologists who earn their living in other professions and who choose to work in this field as a part-time pursuit. He was born in Norway in 1897 and grew up there, though he is now a Swedish citizen. After starting his higher education in Oslo, he spent five years as a pilot with the Norwegian Navy Air Force and then concluded his professional training at the Technische Hochschule in Danzig in 1925. In a short time, his field of specialization, electrical traction, took him to Switzerland for eight years to work on projects connected with railroad electrification.

Since 1935, Mr. Forwald has worked for the General Swedish Electric Company in Ludvika and is now Chief of the Consulting Office of the High Tension Circuit Breaker Department. He holds several hundred patents in various countries over the world which he has obtained in connection with this branch of his work, and he has already published more than a half-dozen technical papers on various aspects of his field.

Mr. Forwald has had a long-time interest in parapsychology. In 1950, as a member of both the Swedish and English Societies for Psychical Research, he sent to the Parapsychology Laboratory a report of some card-guessing and table-tipping experiments which he and some other engineers had been carrying out. At that time, a few experimenters in the United States had made exploratory investigations with the placement method of testing for PK, a method in which the subject tries to influence the *place* in which the rolling dice come to rest (instead of the faces which turn up). The work needed confirmation, and it was suggested to Forwald that he try this new test. He accepted the suggestion, built an apparatus, and in 1951 published the first of his series of reports on PK placement in the *Journal of Parapsychology*.

The apparatus which he constructed was a "dice" table divided longitudinally down the center into two equal parts by a line (and later by a thin, taut wire). The dice, or cubes, which were usually either 6 or 10 in number, were placed in a V-shaped, electrically controlled container above the end of the table. When the subject pressed an electric button, the

container released the cubes and they rolled down an inclined runway onto the table. The subject's task was to try to "will" them (by PK) to go to the side of the dividing line designated as the target. Mr. Forwald was usually, but not always, his own subject, and he did his own recording.

The first experiment was designed simply to find evidence of PK based on the number of cubes in the target area, each side of the table being used as target an equal number of times. When the results turned out to be statistically significant, Forwald went on to other experiments in an attempt to find out what he could about the nature of the PK process by comparing dice of different materials—paper, wood, aluminum, bakelite, and steel. When cubes of two different materials were used together and the subject tried to influence only one kind, the influenced kind gave significant results and the not-influenced kind were at the chance level. Up to this point in the research, Forwald had carried out 71,500 die-throws in which conscious attempts were made to get the dice to settle in the specified target half of the dice table; and the evidence for PK was of an order which would be expected to occur by chance only about 3 out of 10 million times.

In these experiments another result had emerged. The subject had been throwing the dice five times for one side of the table and then five times for the other side. It developed that his success in the five-throw unit varied somewhat with the chronological order of the throw. Taken altogether, the first of the five throws had the highest score of all, the middle three throws showed the lowest, and there was a tendency for higher scores again on the last throw, making a U-curve, an effect that was already familiar from the ESP and PK results of other investigators.

In 1954, Forwald reported a new method of recording the results in placement tests—a method which made possible the use of a more sensitive statistical evaluation than the earlier one provided. He adapted his apparatus by marking off the surface of the table lengthwise and crosswise into centimeters so that the exact location of each cube could be measured. As was anticipated, taking into account the exact lateral position of the dice gave a higher order of statistical significance than had been obtained by merely considering which side of the center line they fell on. Using certain assumptions regarding the PK effect and the physical action of the dice in the situation, Forwald derived a formula for estimating the equivalent physical force that would be required to get the observed placement effect. He published three more reports of work based on this new method. In one he compared two subjects working in competition and two working independently; and in the other two reports, he made further comparisons of different materials and surface textures.

It was at this point in his experimentation that Forwald made his recent visit, in October and November of 1957, to the Parapsychology Laboratory. There he set about to try for the same effects he had obtained in Sweden. First he carried out a "repeat" series in which he worked alone with himself as subject. Then he went on to do further testing in which additional safeguards against error were provided by the presence of independent observers and recorders; and in some instances he used other persons besides himself as subjects. This work, yet to be published, yielded the same overall pattern of success as that which Forwald had had previously. With one particular person acting as subject and recorder, the results were especially good—comparable to the best of the work done in Sweden.

Fortunately this is a continued story, not a finished one. Mr. Forwald has already carried the investigation of PK into new territory, and if his persistence in the past years is any indication, his pioneering spirit will take him farther into unknown areas.

Animal "Thinking" and ESP

Have parapsychologists anything to learn from the controversial claims regarding "thinking" animals which have turned up frequently in the last 70 years? If there is even a possibility that they have, they must be ready to examine such claims, bearing in mind that most of the phenomena now recognized in parapsychology first came to the attention of mankind in a form very different from that in which they now manifest themselves in the laboratory.

The question is brought to mind by *Können Tiere Denken? Ja.* (*Can Animals Think? Yes.*), a German book published in 1954 which has only recently come to our attention. The author-editor, Mrs. Jutzler-Kindermann, concludes from the assembled studies of 16 horses, 1 kitten, and more than 85 dogs, that animals *can* think.

What is meant by animal "thinking"? The type of performances which the animals carried out defines the term well enough for our purposes. The task for most of the studies consisted of arithmetical calculations ranging from the simplest addition to problems in powers and roots. Other types of tests required answers involving the use of the alphabet, the spelling of words, and sometimes the formation of sentences. The horses responded by pawing with their front feet, using a numerical code when letters of the alphabet were involved. The cat and the dogs were trained to respond by the tapping or pawing method, and sometimes, in the case of dogs, by barking. Less commonly, the animal was taught to point to the correct letter or number.

The cases cover the period from 1890 to 1953. Some of the animals were extensively studied by scientific observers. The one which received the most attention was "der kluge Hans," a horse belonging to Wilhelm von Osten. It was this famous animal, studied in the 1890's and later, which started the belief in "thinking" animals on its still popular course. Hans became the subject of controversies between psychologists who thought he must certainly be receiving visual cues from the owner and those who judged that under the circumstances such cues were ruled out. Among those who believed in the visual cue explanation was the Berlin psychologist, Dr. Oskar Pfungst. Probably most of the psychologists of the day accepted his critical judgment of Hans because the alternative hypothesis—that the horse could think—seemed entirely incredible. Prof. Edouard Claparède of the University of Geneva was one of those who believed that sensory cues were not sufficient explanation. Various books and articles were written on the subject. Pfungst published his views in a book entitled *Clever Hans.* Dr. S. von Maday, taking the opposite side, published one in defense of the claims that this and other "thinking" animals were guided at least by something more than clues, as Pfungst supposed.

Perhaps the outstanding impression one gets about the long list of animal cases extending into the present decade is that psychologists backed away from these most interesting and (on any theory) dramatic examples of animal behavior. No later case of animal performance of this type received nearly so much attention from scientific observers as this first one, the case of Clever Hans.

Even in the case (not included in this collection) of the horse Lady of Richmond, Virginia, who received a great deal of popular attention for more than 30 years, the only scientific studies published were those by two parapsychologists, J. B. and L. E. Rhine. The circus dogs investigated by Bechterev in St. Petersburg have not been referred to in the literature on animal psychology. There has obviously been a general tendency by animal psychologists to rule "out of bounds" such animal performances as these.

Where, then, does parapsychology come in, if at all, with regard to these provocative cases that fall in the shadowy no man's land between mere showmanship and animal psychology? There is no suggestion in *Können Tiere Denken? Ja.* of the possibility, proposed both by Bech-

terev and the Rhines, that telepathy between man and animal is a possible explanation. While it is probably not safe to say in any given case presented in this book that telepathy was the *only* reasonable explanation of the animals' performance, it does appear to be a logical alternative to the "thinking" hypothesis—especially so in the case of the blind horse, Berto, in which visual cues were presumably ruled out.

We do not have to depend, of course, on this interesting collection of cases to point out the need for considering the hypothesis of ESP in animals. There are even more striking types of animal behavior on record than these. In addition, untrained animals have been used in experimental investigations, some of which have been reported in the *Journal of Parapsychology* and elsewhere. More recently, several of the currently available performing animals have been investigated, especially dogs that bark or paw their responses in such a way that tests of ESP can be given and the results appraised in a reliable manner.

Such a book as *Können Tiere Denken? Ja.* is valuable to parapsychologists, not so much because it offers a chance to appraise the likelihood of ESP in any of the cases involved, but rather because it reveals the great variety of performance which these particular species of animals have been trained to produce. To the investigator of psi in animals, this book may be a valuable source of suggestion when making practical decisions as to what breed of animal to use, what to expect of the animal, and what kind of performance would be best adapted to different test procedures. The same kind of performance used by these "thinking" animals could, with a few added precautions, lend itself equally well to the investigation of ESP, at least in the preliminary stages.

One of the many animal cases which have been followed up by the Duke Parapsychology Laboratory has led to results that are approaching publication in the *Journal of Parapsychology*. The animal in question is a dog named Chris, owned by Mr. George R. Wood, an industrial chemist of Warwick, R. I. The dog learned to respond to questions by clawing a certain number of times, according to code, on the arm of the person testing him. For several years Mr. Wood has been working with the dog and has given a number of public performances with him at hospitals, churches, and similar groups. During the last six months Dr. Cadoret and Mr. Wood, in a joint study, have had Chris do some tests with ESP cards. They obtained a significant order of evidence that ESP was demonstrated, though just what role the dog plays in the ESP process is not clear.

General News

Sigurd Binski of Hagen-Haspe, Germany, has lately become one of the comparatively few persons to receive a doctor's degree for a thesis based on research in parapsychology. He received his degree from the Dept. of Psychology at the University of Bonn on June 29, 1957. Binski carried out his research in 1950 and 1951 under the direction of Dr. Siegfried Behn, but was delayed in taking his degree because he was detained behind the Iron Curtain. The PK experiments on which the thesis was based were reported in the December number of the *Journal of Parapsychology*.

Books and Articles

DOES MAN SURVIVE DEATH? Edited and with an introduction by Eileen J. Garrett. New York: Helix Press, 1957.

Twenty authors have given their ideas, in this book, on the ever-present question: Does man somehow survive death? The articles represent fact and opinion from a variety of fields: philosophy, theology, the natural sciences, parapsychology, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis. There is also a section describing seven outstanding cases selected from the literature relevant to the question.

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